

PVRC NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 1996 From [\[email protected\]](mailto:[email protected]) Mon Sep 30 18:13:35  
1996 Date: Mon, 30 Sep 1996 15:38:19 -0400 (EDT) From: "Dick Wilder (K3DI)" To:  
Steve Affens K3SA Subject: PVRC October Newsletter

# PVRC NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 1996

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## PVRC Charter Members:

W3GRF (SK), W3IKN, W4AAV (SK), W4KFC (SK), W4KFT, N0FFZ, W4LUE, W7YS,  
VP2VI (W0DX).

## PacketCluster Contest/DX System (MHz):

K3NA	Frederick MD	145.630
W3LPL	Glenwood MD	145.590 441.250
KE3Q	Bowie MD	145.570 445.375
N3RR	Rockville MD	145.510 441.325
N4OHE	Mt. Weather VA	145.710 440.925
N4SR	Woodbridge VA	145.530 *
WR3L	Baltimore MD	145.610
K4FJ	Mt. Vernon VA	145.770 *

The system is sponsored by the Potomac Valley DX Spotting Network except for nodes marked with "\*" are funded & operated by the Rappahannock DX Packetcluster Group.

## PVRC on Internet:

Visit the PVRC Home Page, courtesy of K3SA, at:  
<http://www.access.digex.net/~k3sa/pvrc.html>

Dues are by donation.

The mandatory \$10 dues have been discontinued. So please send your donation - hopefully at least \$10 - to Jim Horton, N3KTV, 8527 Calypso Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20879-1522. Make checks payable to PVRC. Thank you.

## Newsletter Editor:

Dick Wilder, K3DI, 913 Shore Acres Rd, Arnold, MD 21012-1724. The communication ports are: (410) 757-6706, FAX/modem 757-6720, [\[email protected\]](mailto:[email protected]), and the DXcluster. The deadline is for the November issue is Monday, October 29.

The Next General Meeting is October 14th (always second Monday): The meeting will be at the Public Library in Vienna, Virginia on route 123 outside the Beltway. Program: war stories and "teamwork at multi-multi stations." Take the Beltway to VA Route 123 South (Chain

Bridge Road at this point). Cross over Route 7 and pass Tyson's Corner. On right will be JKJ Chevrolet. Continue on 123 into Vienna where 123 becomes Maple Avenue. After passing Beulah Road (on right with light), look for Park Street (about 3 blocks). Park Street has a light. The Library will be along one block on the left, just before Center Street. Entrance to the library parking lot is a left off 123 Maple. The lot is just before the library itself.

Alternatively, if you take I-66 off the beltway, and exit at Nutley Street toward Vienna, you will run into Maple Ave. A right turn takes you into town. The library will be on your RIGHT just after Center Street. Going this way, you will not have to make a left turn into the parking lot across heavy double lanes traffic.

Some of the PVRCers get together at Chili's on route 7, Tyson's, before the meeting and a few at the Pizza Hut afterwards. Best to check on the 147.000 repeater to determine the trend for the evening.

PVRC Meetings Calendar:

Mon, Oct 14: General meeting, 7:30 PM, Vienna VA (See Above)  
Tue, Oct 15: NW meeting, Legends Restr, Frederick MD at 8:00 PM  
Wed, Dec 18: 4th annual "Beezer" Xmas Dinner, Sylvia's Restr,  
14670 Southlawn Lane, Rockville, MD  
6PM -?. For more info contact WB2BZR.

GAITHERSBURG MEETING SEPTEMBER 8TH by Rich Boyd, KE3Q

Nice turnout! And I think the attendees liked meeting amongst the PVRC tailgaters instead of on the other side of the building -- a new innovation. In attendance: KF3P, WB2NQT, KE3Q, ND3F and jr op N3SLN, KA4RRU, K5RJ, K3RV, K8MLM, KO4FM, N3JT, G0AYN, K3SFP, W3ZN, AA3NM, N4QQ, WA3WJD, AA3LE, W3DA, K3SA, W2EOS, N3KTU, W4RW, WR3Z, ND3A, W3TMZ, KA3TGY, NE3H, W3GN, NV3V, N3AM, AA4EL, N3RQV, N3KKM, WV3B, K1HTV, W9VL, K3TM, N3II, AE3C, WB3AVN, N3KVF, WB3ECU, K4MJO, N3RC, W3HVO, N3ORY, KC3EK, K3ZZ, KB3AUG, K3WS, WF3J, K3SGE, N4MM, KT4W, WA3IKK, K4VV, N4ZR, AK2P, K7CMZ, K3TZV, W3FTG, WA3KZR, WB6VGI, N3CBJ, W3EMH, KE3KL, AA3HM, AA3HA, AA6DC, W3GG, WD3I, KA3TUE, K3YGU, KX3Q, N3UN, WB2BZR, AA3KX, KE3TT, WB3ARZ, W3UJ, K3SKE, K3LYW, and N3RR.

I have that at about 79 attendees. Not bad. If we all got on both modes in SS we'd win it! That'd be 158 SS logs!

Applications for membership were accepted from W3FTG, K4VV, G0AYN, KB3AUG, K3EUO, NY3G, KV3J, WA3IKK, and N6CQ. About half were voted in at this meeting (the ones who were there) and we'll vote the others in at the September 10th meeting.

Pennsylvania co-chairmen NE3H and K3TZV were both there and are really doing a bang-up job recruiting in south-central PA, the part of the state PVRC encompasses.

As PVRC has spread, keeping ourselves pulled together has become important. Nice to see the PA guys come down as often as they do. K4PQL has been actively organizing in NC. None of the NC boys were up for

Gaithersburg but the Virginia Beach hamfest is coming up. Maybe some of us can get down to it and meet with our SE Virginia and NC members.

GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 9TH AT TEMPLE HILLS by Rich Boyd, KE3Q

In attendance were: WA3TAI, KE3Q, KF3P, ND3A, WR3Z, W3DA, WB3ECU, N3RR, W3LPL, KO4FM, WB4NFS, WD4KXB, KE3KL, WR3L. The program by WB4NFS and WD4KXB gave us an excellent presentation of their VP2MFM contest DXpedition, including handouts from the DX Magazine and NCJ --the write-ups in those magazines, a rundown of their planning, a nice video of the whole thing, and Q&A. These guys from Woodbridge Wireless, PVRC, plus W2HPF, were #1 world multi-two, with a score higher than any multi-multis in the world as well. The ops: WB4NFS, KJ4VG, KO4FM, W4MYA, KA4RRU (these first 5 are PVRC), plus WD4KXB and W2HPF. Beautiful villa with pool, WAY up on a hill with a panoramic view of ocean toward the U.S. The contest was ARRL 1995 Phone. The antennas, a couple 3-el tribanders (A3s I think), and low wires for 40/80/160. 13,000 QSOs, 13 million points! These guys are available to give this presentation to your local club. Good job!

BIOGRAPHY OF NEW MEMBERS by Rich Boyd, KE3Q:

N6CQ, Bill Lummitzer, Lewisberry, PA, licensed in '58 as WA6CZR. Also has been TA8CW and HS5AKU. ARRL life member, DXCC, WAS, WAC, WAZ, has an FT-1000, AL-1200, 5/5 20M, 3L40, KT34XA, 3L 80 wire beam.

KV3J, Keith Beebe, Camp Hill, PA, works at Office of Command Affairs, Defense Distribution Region East. Licensed in '63 as WA4QCO. Also was WA3UDJ. DXCC Honor Roll with 331 confirmed, WAS, WAC, WAZ, ARRL member, life member of Central Pennsylvania Repeater Association, says he has a "typical basic ham station (that works well enough for Honor Roll)."

NY3G, Bill Gillenwater, Mechanicsburg, PA, licensed in '68 as WN7RBN. Also was KA3AGX, N3AOT, and KD3QH. Very active in the 10M contest, CW only. 5BWAS and 5BDXCC, WAC. Has an FT-990, SB-220, 80M loop, 40M loop, 160 sloper, tribander.

K3EUO, David Kratzer, Dillsburg, PA, licensed in '58. Was recently active in NAQP, Field Day, and CQWW. Has an FT-1000D, Alpha 91B and is equipped for 160-2. Particularly likes RTTY, CW, and Pactor, and likes rebuilding player pianos and wood working.

KB3AUG, Bill Hinkle, Mechanicsville, MD has been quite active on packetcluster and HF DXing with his southern Maryland friends KE3QZ, KE3RX, and others. Together they recently put the KE3QZ node on the air. Bill has an FT-1000D, Yaesu 767, a 3-500Z amp, inverted vees for 160 and 80, half wave sloper for 80, A4S with 40 at 93' for 40-10. Bill describes himself as "a DXer, but I do contests too." 220 countries confirmed, 130 or so on 80. Also on Internet, [\[email protected\]](mailto:[email protected]).

W4/G0AYN, Ian Dent, has been squired to recent PVRC/NCDXA meetings by N3JT. Ian has been an FOC member for 10 years, is a keen CW and phone contester and is also keen to participate actively in the club. Is a

member of the G3LNS and G0AAA contest groups, no station at present since he's just located in our area, but plans to gear up in the next 6 months. QTH, Hanover, MD, which I'm told is near BWI airport.

K4VV, Jack Hammett Jr., licensed in '52 as WN5WUN, became W5WUN, KR6AK, and K4VV in '73. He operated some in Germany and with MARS. Has been active in many of the recent DX contests, typically making 100-200 QSOs in casual operating (no contributions are too small to our club effort!), but is well equipped with: FT-1000D/Henry 2K-3, 930/Henry 2K-3, 830/Henry 2KD5, 520/L4B, C-Line, and KWM-2A. Really likes wire antennas, with separate dipoles for 80, 40, 30, 20, and 15, fed with 450 ohm line and tuners. Also likes CW DXing and WARC band rag chewing, plus local contacts on 75M and learning from the example of others. I'm told Jack is a sponge for ham radio knowledge and is often seen taking notes. Has "a great job with SAIC that involves a lot of traveling and Army/DOD telecommunications." Also likes family pursuits, internet, scuba, boating, offshore fishing. And says, "I will need some help with CT or other computer logging for contest log entries." QTH is Vienna, VA.

W3FTG, Red Free (and my apologies -- I received this application in March and misplaced it), Fairfax, Virginia. Licensed in '58. Previous callsigns: K0PFF, W5NGG, W4SXN, W9NDS, G0/W3FTG, BV/W3FTG, SV/W3FTG. Was in many recent DX contests, making 200-300 QSOs each time. DXCC 279, WAZ, WAS as a novice in '59. Yaesu FT-990/SB200, Carolina Windom and Windom 160. Likes digital modes, RTTY/Pactor/Amtor, mobile HF, and giving out counties. Also likes golf, reading history and mysteries, walking, and travel.

WA3IKK, Dusty Chapman, Camp Hill, PA, first licensed in '67 as WN3IKK. Has most of the usual DX awards, is equipped with an FT-1000D, Ten-Tec Titan amp, and a TH-11. Also likes fishing. Welcome aboard, Dusty!

CQ REGIONAL CHAIR-PERSONS de editor

My main focus for this Newsletter is tying together the far flung regions of PVRC through publication of meeting, station, and personal information of your regions. I would like to request that all chairs make use of this Newsletter by sending in info about their regions.

Meeting minutes of any length are welcomed. They may consist of little more than an attendance list and mention of the program. Or, as KE3Q chooses, they may be long and very chatty. (Thanks Rich, your chatty minutes precludes the need of a social columnist.) I also welcome other articles of general interest. Chairs and other will find my input ports listed on page one. To all recipients of this newsletter: why not pass it along to a ham friend who is a contest-want-to-be?

WR3L OPEN HOUSE SEPTEMBER 21ST by Rich Boyd, KE3Q

In order by last name, the attendees were Rich Boyd, KE3Q; Amy Boyd, N3MIL; Jack Hammett, K4VV; Bill Hider, N3RR/MM with Barbara, Brittney, and Brian; Ike Lawton, W2EOS; Howard Leake, W6AXX/MM; Craig Lee, AA3HM; Rich Lehr, WB3ECU; Dick Phelps, N4RP (joined in '54 as W4KXV) with Lona; Andy

Roberts, N3QYA; Mel Roberts, W3MR; Barry Shapiro, WR3Z; Ed Steeble, K3IXD; Dick Wilder, K3DI; and Martha Wilder, N3FZB.

WR3L really had a spread laid out for us, BBQ beef, roast beef sliced as we watched, sausage, and a bushel of crabs, as well as a nice sheet cake with PVRC logo in the icing, and many side dishes, and an abundance of beverages. And Dave's site is really super, a panoramic view of the Middle River and Chesapeake Bay with the Baltimore Yacht Club off to the right. Dave says it's a 10-mile view across water to the northeast (Europe for us contestants!) Dave's nice powerboat, We-N-Joy was at the dock and 6 crab pots had several crabs in them each. But, Dave had gone out and bought a nice bushel of jimmies for us. After many calls on 147.42, WR3Z finally heard N3RR in the distance. He finally arrived at 3:30 -- his original plan was to get there at noon. But all his passengers appeared to be in good health and spirits, including the adventurous W6AXX.

N4RP (x-W4KXV) was there with the lovely Lona. They had lived on a 40' boat for years, so felt very much at home at Dave's -- they've recently moved into a condo in Florida. Dick expects to continue operating (mostly CW) contests occasionally as N4RP/C6A.

Brittney Hider was the only one to test the waters of the swimming pool. Brian Hider's mighty squirtgun (is that what they call a "soaker?") is the kids' equivalent of an Alpha 77SX.

Not only was the food excellent and abundant, and the site tremendous, but Dave and Darlene had borrowed 3 picnic tables and a big tent, so we dined in shaded comfort. He was ready for any weather. Like K3ZO and like "the old" W3LPL, Dave has not just the house he lives in but the house next door, which he rents out. On narrow waterfront lots it helps greatly -- to have room for antennas. Dave has a 56' HBX self supporter with a new Force-12 C3XL a few feet up the mast, so it's something over 60' high. Above that, a Diamond packet antenna. Also on the tower a 440 yagi to link to W3LPL node. And on the house a 2M yagi to link to W3XU and the rest of the packetcluster system to the northeast.

Across the street, Dave has another lot, with no house on it, but he's already poured concrete for a 90' (or so) crankup he got from (who else?) KE3Q. That tower came from Les Moskowitz, AE3P (I'm trusting my memory on the call, may not have it quite right), an inactive PVRC member who some of you may remember. The tower should go up soon. Dave has an interesting plan to get the hardline from across the road to the shack.

Inside, an FT-1000, FL-7000, Heathkit SB-1000, and FT-767. A very nice, tidy, shack off the master bedroom. Darlene actually enjoys hearing the phone contests -- has missed it since Dave went to headphones. I suggested he hook up a loudspeaker in parallel, with a volume control. Nice to get this kind of XYL support -- it should be encouraged! hi. Put that speaker wherever she says! Dave was hoping to get an addition on the shack (bump the house out 8' there) done by the open house, but a zoning variance that is required has delayed it. Should be no problem since he owns the adjacent lot. With the two homes, there were two docks, until

the high tides from hurricane Fran destroyed one. Repairs to the other were done in time for the open house and the second one will be rebuilt. These docks are 165' or so long -- all sorts of possibilities for ham antennas out there! Dave already has a flag pole out there that he uses to support one end of a 160 sloper. I suggested a MUCH BIGGER flag pole. hi. Also, a flagpole on the new dock would mean wire antennas between the two. Dave's thinking of getting one of the 5" tubing military "rocket launcher" masts for out there. Good idea!

N3QYA (16-year-old son of longtime PVRCer W3MR) had suffered a "freak band accident," and was at the open house with nine stitches on his nose. Seems the person in front of him in the marching band did a cartwheel and their foot bumped the bell of his baritone into him! So not all the football accidents happen in the game!

Amy and I were the stragglers -- hung around talking to Dave and Darlene until 9:30 p.m. Had a REALLY good time. Oh...Dave is very interested in having some operators come in for the contests. You can work out with him whether you single op a particular contest or do multi-single or multi-two or whatever. He's also very open to having your participation on station improvement plans and implementation. Essex, east of Baltimore, WR3L's QTH, was 45 minutes drive from Bowie.

#### PVRC QSL CARD ORDER by Craig Lee, AA3HM

To date I have received 10 orders for a total of 11,000 cards but need orders for 20,000 to get the prices quoted. Because of gate 2 opening, I am going to extend the deadline for orders to the end of October. Don't delay, get those orders in! (See order form in prior issue or contact Craig or me. -editor.)

#### ATTENDING "JAPAN'S DAYTON" by Fred Laun, K3ZO

Having attended Germany's Friedrichshafen Hamfest last year, there remained one world ham gathering that I had always wanted to see, and that was Tokyo's annual Ham Fair. This gathering has been billed as the world's largest hamfest (attendance this year was 55,000), and I wanted to see what it was like. So this year Somporn and I decided to stop and attend it on the way to our annual visit to Thailand.

The Internet has made visits to such events a lot easier to arrange. E-mail messages were duly dispatched to a number of my ham radio friends in Japan, most of whom had either visited me here or while I was working in Thailand. Back came a schedule of Ham Fair events and a list of nearby hotels from JR1GSE, a map and description of the Ham Fair site from JM1UXU, and an offer to organize a personalized tour of Tokyo the Monday following the Ham Fair by Saty, JE1JKL.

The big payoff came from Jim, JH1HGC who relayed information about a DX Meeting organized by JH1AJT to coincide with the Ham Fair. When I indicated a desire to attend this event, JH1HGC contacted Zorro, JH1AJT, who not only added our names to the guest list, but offered to book us into the hotel where the meeting was being held for our entire week in

Japan and pay for the hotel! Not only that, Zorro offered to pick us up at Narita Airport. We gladly accepted all the offers.

On August 21 our ANA flight departed Dulles for the non-stop flight to Narita and the real-time flight map exhibited on the screen when film features were not being shown traced our progress up over Ontario, over Hudson's Bay up to the Yukon's shore with the Arctic Ocean, west over Central Alaska and down the Eastern Pacific just east of UA0-land to Japan. Too bad it wasn't a night flight, I thought; we might have had a good view of the aurora.

Zorro and his driver were waiting for us at the airport and the GPS-locator-equipped grey Mercedes eased its way onto the tollway for the 40 mile trip to Tokyo in traffic resembling that during the rush hour on I-95 from Springfield to Woodbridge. By then it was midafternoon on Thursday, August 22 in Japan, and the Ham Fair would begin the next day. We arrived over an hour later at the Harumi Grand Hotel, where Zorro booked us in and waited in the coffee shop while we freshened up. He then took us on a brief motor tour of downtown Tokyo, ending up at a tempura restaurant for a scrumptuous shrimp dinner washed down by endless rounds of Asahi Beer.

The following morning we got on the hotel's shuttle bus to the Ham Fair where JARL's JA1TRC met us and gave us each big pink artificial flowers to pin on, designating us as honorary guests. Also on hand were a number of JARL officials led by President JA1AN, and the only other non-JA, ARRL's DXCC Chief K5FUV. Somporn was the only woman in this ceremonial crowd.

The Tokyo Ham Fair this year took place in a massive convention center with two exhibition wings connected by a central shopping/restaurant area. The Ham Fair took up one of the exhibition wings, with a computer game show exhibition occupying the other wing, the latter attracting a far more numerous clientele including oodles of kids, which, as is the case these days at Dayton, were a small minority at the Ham Fair. The food at the various self-serve cafeterias in the facility was excellent and reasonably priced for those who have heard the horror stories about Japan's prices. I had a perfectly fine hamburger steak and gravy dinner for about \$19 including soft drink, potato and vegetables. The bathrooms in this facility, by the way, were super-clean.

After JA1AN cut the ceremonial ribbon at 0945 the Ham Fair was declared open and the waiting crowd of hams surged into the exhibit area much as they do at Dayton at noon on Friday when the inside exhibits are opened to the public. At the Ham Fair there is no outdoor flea market; everything is indoors in an air-conditioned atmosphere so weather is not much of a factor. The first day it was over 90 degrees outside so the air conditioning system had a little trouble keeping things cool, but we were not at the mercy of the elements. The exhibit area was broken up into four large rooms: ham radio manufacturers; JARL, ARRL, IARU and other major organizations; radio stores, magazines, distributors, etc; and general purpose booths including flea marketeers and special interest clubs, groups, etc. Sprinkled among the exhibits were occasional seating areas at which the various lectures and slide-shows took place. These

seemed to be well-attended but there didn't seem to be many of them compared with Dayton.

JA1AN motioned the dignitaries including Somporn and myself to accompany him on a ceremonial tour of the facility, followed by an unbelievable number of photographers, video cameramen, etc. The first stop was the Ham Fair's exhibition station 8J1HAM, where I sat beside JA1AN as he made the initial QSO with JA1YRL/1 on 6 meter SSB. Then it was on to the manufacturers' exhibits where Yaesu, Icom, Kenwood, JRC, etc., showed off their latest goodies, while JARL Secretary JA1DM and IARU Region 3's JM1UXU served as our personal guides.

After that we were guests at lunch sponsored by the Japanese Amateur Industries Association where Somporn and I shared a table with the Editor of IARU Region 3 News -- my Region 3 counterpart --Masa, JM1UXU, and Yaesu President Mr. Hasegawa, JF1AAA. Mr. Hasegawa, the son of legendary Yaesu founder JA1MP (the "MP" in the Yaesu FT-1000-MP comes from his call), spent over 10 years in the States and speaks excellent English. Somporn and Mr. Hasegawa charmed each other to the point where he offered to deliver an FT-840 to my hotel for my use in Thailand, an offer which I reluctantly had to refuse due to the complications involved in bringing a rig into Thailand without having it pre-registered for import. But I have now been ordered by my XYL to purchase an FT- 1000-MP, which should earn her a free meal at Mrs. Wong's place in Gaithersburg paid for by W3ZZ, who has been imploring me for years to get a modern rig.

Saturday morning it was back to the Ham Fair again on the hotel's shuttle bus. The gates don't open until 10 o'clock so we encountered a long line waiting to get in. Somporn and I decided not to walk around all day with our big pink flowers getting in our way, so we bought entry tickets this time -- for about \$12 apiece, good for all three days at the Ham Fair. Again, not bad considering the rumored Japanese prices. Fortunately among the waiting crowd we found JA8OW, who we had met at previous SEANET Conventions, so we had somebody to gab with until the gates opened.

I accompanied JA8OW to the SEANET booth where in the company of JA0AD and JA0DAI I was presented an honorary SEANET exhibitors' badge. I had learned the previous day that it is better in Japan to sit at a booth and wait for the people you want to meet to come to you. Walking around until you spot someone whose call you recognize and then going up to shake hands doesn't always work so well; for one thing, only about a third of the JA's had badges or hats with their calls on, and even for those whose calls I recognized, they were somewhat startled by a foreigner accosting them with a friendly outstretched hand. Far better to sit at a booth and be properly introduced by your JA friends who man the booth. I thus pretty much divided my time between the SEANET booth, The IARU Region 3 booth, and the booth where K3EST held forth with his tee shirt sales in the company of JE1CKA and JE1JKL who were selling the CT and TR Logging Programs, respectively. Bob reported that his half of the space cost about \$200 for the weekend, and therefore the tee shirts he sold netted him enough so that his trip on the fly-by-night cheapy airline ticket he took over (was it Canadian International Airways [CIA] from Vancouver to Nagoya International Airport, Bob?) was paid for.

Yoshi, JK2VOC, who has visited me here in Washington, took me on a brief tour around the exhibit area, where many of the clubs we work in the contests -- JA1YXP, JA1ZLO, JR1ZTT, etc. -- had booths. Their operators' English may be adequate for contest work, but I found that it wasn't very good for conversation purposes. There was also a booth manned by 7L1GVE and others selling lots of immaculate Collins gear, a real status symbol in Japan. I looked at the price on a very clean reconditioned 75A4, and it was about \$1200. That's close to the prices you see in the Yellow Sheets, so I guess it's not too bad over there.

Yoshi also enrolled me in the call sign copying contest they have there -- more like the RUFZ system than the pileup contest at the Kansas City suites in Dayton. You sit at a keyboard and type in the call you hear blaring at you from a large speaker. Only one call is sent at a time. Mercifully for this hunt-and-peck type, the system waits until you have finished typing in the call before it sends the next one. Each time you get a call right, it speeds up for the next one. Toward the end I was having trouble distinguishing between B's and D's. Much to my surprise a certificate and prize saying something about second place were later delivered to the SEANET booth for me.

That night was JH1AJT's DXers' meeting back at the hotel. No speeches or slide shows, just a brief introduction of the honored guests, and then the fun began. While the hotel's staff served endless rounds of beer and constantly renewed the buffet items along one wall of the room, Zorro got things underway with his personally-barked Bingo game, with many real nice prizes going to the winners, including Somporn. Many of the JA's brought along their photo albums and I spent lots of time thumbing through them while they described their antenna systems, DX-peditions, etc. The JA's appear to be a rather reserved lot when sober, but the more the beer flowed, the more they loosened up and the more their English appeared to improve. The calls of those there, too numerous to mention individually, were all familiar, from contests, pile-ups, DXpeditions, etc.

After the "meeting" broke up, most of us adjourned to the hotel's restaurant where more rounds of beer were consumed and more tall tales were swapped. This was followed by a dimly-remembered group photo taken on the floor of the hotel lobby, followed by a massive assist from a literally "big" DX'er, JA8RUZ, to help me get back on my feet.

This was just one grand illustration of international ham radio friendship! What ordinary tourist, on the third day of his first visit to Japan, could feel so much at home and so surrounded by good friends and good cheer? No folks, ham radio may be under assault, but it ain't dead yet!

The next day, Sunday, saw a contestants' luncheon at the Ham Fair followed by a barbecue in honor of Somporn and myself at Zorro's hilltop country estate overlooking the Pacific Ocean near the JA1/JA2 border, complete with 80 and 40 meter rotaries, etc., and the only 15 KW amplifier I have ever seen at a ham station. Somporn was provided her own personal guide for the day, Zorro's sister-in-law, JO1DDQ.

The following day found us being guided around Tokyo on train and subway by JE1JKL in the company of JE1CKA, JA7RHJ and K3EST. We dropped in at JARL, Japan's CQ Magazine, Tokyo's Akhibara area (we would call it radio row), a traditional temple, topped off by Ginza. Dinner that night, hosted by JA7RHJ in a rooftop restaurant overlooking Tokyo Bay, climaxed our day. After a day spent on our own shopping in Ginza, where I stood outside and marvelled at the number of Japanese conversing on their cell-phones as they walked down the street while Somporn busied herself inside, we were escorted to the airport by contesteer JH4RHF and another of Zorro's associates in order to catch our plane to Bangkok.

We were simply overwhelmed by the hospitality extended to us by Zorro in particular and our other ham friends in Japan. Just as they are polite and orderly in pile-ups, they are the finest hosts we could imagine in person. I highly recommend a trip to next year's Ham Fair. You won't be disappointed!

SOME ADDITIONAL AMATEUR RADIO SITES ON THE INTERNET, Compiled by Leo Boberschmidt, KA3TGY

The PVRC Home Page is a marvelous collection of web sites and ham radio information sources. We all owe a great deal of thanks to Steve/K3SA for doing such a grand job. While surfing the Net, I've run into a lot of other ham sites that might be of interest to some of the PVRC members. If there is any question but that ham radio is a definite presence on the Net, all you have to do is check out one of the search engines available. Using the Infoseek Ultra search engine [<http://ultra.infoseek.com/>], I entered the phrase "amateur radio" and go 19,335 hits; "amateur radio antennas" produced 175 hits, "amateur radio contest" produced 106 hits, W3LPL produced 77 hits, and PVRC produced 71 hits. So, there is definitely a LOT out there.

The following list includes some interesting ham radio sites and also some map and travel sites [so you can all prepare for those DXpeditions]. A word about a few of the sites. The Bavarian Contest Club is one of the leading DX contest clubs. Check out their 1995 CQWW CW score [#2 for DX clubs] on page 16 of the October issue of CQ. The Royal Palm Elementary School ARC is not a contest club [yet]. I worked Alan/WB4DYU during the days a few weeks ago and he had me talk to several of his students. These are our future contesters. Try tuning around 14220 to 14240 on Wednesdays between 11 AM and Noon and you might get a chance to say hello to these kids. I've included a few QRP sites. I know, I know; for most of you, QRP is what happens when your linear goes out. But, QRP is a category in a lot of the contests. Finally, the USAir site is included because they have a feature where you can send them your e-mail address and they will inform you of last-minute, e-mail travel bargains. Most of these are for travel on the Saturday after you receive the e-mail and you must return on the Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday. But, here are some recent round-trip fares from Washington National: Kansas City, MO - \$119, Rochester, NY - \$79; from BWI: Cleveland - \$79, Los Angeles - 279, Jacksonville - \$99. Great prices if you want to do some last minute traveling [perhaps to a hamfest]. [Note: I am NOT connected with USAir].

THE FOLLOWING LIST OF URL'S WAS REPLACED IN THE PAPER EDITION OF THIS NEWSLETTER WITH A NOTE STEARING READERS TO THIS WEB PAGE. -EDITOR

**Clubs:**

Amateur Radio Clubs [W6BHZ List]:

<http://www.w6bhz.calpoly.edu/clubs.html>

Bavarian Contest Club:

<http://www.rrze.uni-erlangen.de/~unrz45/BCC/>

Royal Palm Elementary School ARC -

WB4DYU:[http://newworld.bridge.net/~alan/rp\\_arc.html](http://newworld.bridge.net/~alan/rp_arc.html)

**Information: Links, Newsletters, Bulletins, Bulletin Boards:**

Amateur Radio Newsline:

<http://wwwcom.acs.ncsu.edu/HamRadio/News.html>

Ham Radio Links:

<http://www.unm.edu/~wx3w/ham.html>

Ham Radio Online - Newsletters:

<http://www.accessone.com/~vbook/newsletters.htm>

Last DX Connection Homepage [has landline BBS with connection to KE3Q node]:

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/k3zr/>

More Ham Radio Links:

<http://user.itl.net/~equinox/>

OPDX Bulletin - Internet Edition:

<http://www.en.com/users/k8yse/opdx.html>

**Operating:**

Amateur Radio QRP Pages:

<http://wwwcom.acs.ncsu.edu/HamRadio/HF/qrp/>

GridSquare Conversion:

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat/toys/gridconv.html>

N.E.W.S. [North East Weak Signal VHF Group] Home Page:

<http://uhavax.hartford.edu/newsvhf>

N.E.W.S. VHF WWW Sites:

[http://uhavax.hartford.edu/disk\\$userdata/faculty/newsvhf/www/vhf-www.html](http://uhavax.hartford.edu/disk$userdata/faculty/newsvhf/www/vhf-www.html)

QRP Amateur Radio Club International:

<http://www.duke.edu/~djohnson/arcı.html/>

**Organizations:**

Hawaii Amateur Radio:

<http://www.pixi.com/amateur-radio/>

International Telecommunication Union (ITU):

<http://www.itu.ch/>

National Association of Tower Erectors:

<http://www.daknet.com/nate/>

Russian Ham Radio Page:

<http://www.stack.serpukhov.su/~victor/hamradio/>

**Products:**

Amateur Radio Vendor Directory:

<http://www.scott.net/~wa4fat/vendor.html>

W7FG Vintage Manuals:  
<http://eigen.net/w7fg/>

**Reference:**

Amateur Radio FTP sites:  
<http://wwwcom.acs.ncsu.edu/HamRadio/ftp.html>  
Amateur Radio Reference: Table of Contents  
<http://www.panix.com/clay/ham/>  
Amateur Radio Web Servers  
<http://hamgate.cc.wayne.edu/AmateurWWW.html>  
Amateur Radio WWW Bookmark File

[http://uhavax.hartford.edu/disk\\$userdata/faculty/newsvhf/www/ham-www.html](http://uhavax.hartford.edu/disk$userdata/faculty/newsvhf/www/ham-www.html)  
FCC Interference Handbook:  
<http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Compliance/WWW/tvibook.html>  
More Amateur Radio FTP sites:  
<http://hamgate.cc.wayne.edu/ftp.html>  
SimTel index: [hamradio zip files]  
[http://www.sinica.edu.tw/simtel/simtel\\_index\\_hamradio.html](http://www.sinica.edu.tw/simtel/simtel_index_hamradio.html)  
Virtual Radio Rally ["Radio Rally"=hamfest in UK]  
<http://ukinternet.com/ham/>  
WWWVirtual Library: Amateur Radio  
<http://www.meaning.com/pointers/wwwvl-ham.html>

**Travel - Airlines:**

1-800 Numbers for Airlines:  
<http://www.mit.edu/people/wchuang/travel/Airlines.html>  
USAir [including USAir E-savers]:  
<http://www.usair.com/>

**Travel - Maps & Country Information:**

City.Net & City.Net's Maps:  
<http://www.city.net/>  
[http://www.city.net/indexes/top\\_maps.html](http://www.city.net/indexes/top_maps.html)  
DeLorme-AAA CyberRouter:  
<http://route.delorme.com/>  
Internet Resources--Countries:  
<http://nearnet.gnn.com/gnn/meta/travel/res/countries.html>  
MapQuest!:  
<http://www.mapquest.com/>  
Sarawak Tourism Board Home Page:  
<http://www.jaring.my/stb/>  
Subway Navigator [for 60 cities around the world]:  
<http://metro.jussieu.fr:10001/bin/cities/english>  
U.S. Gazetteer [all U.S. place names: search by name or 5-number ZIP]:  
<http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/gazetteer>

**Travel - Other:**

Expedition Link:  
<http://twentyone-11.org/2111/exp-link.html>  
Forecasts Along Interstate Highways[preparation for all the Rovers]:  
<http://www.usatoday.com/weather/wilist.htm>  
Hotel & Travel Index Worldwide:

http://www.traveler.net/htio/  
Travelocity's Currency Converter [55 different currencies]:  
http://ps.worldview.travelocity.com/wvbin/put\_date.cgi?  
HTML=/WVHOME/PS/html/currencyconvert.html